the display surface. In a handwriting input mode, the display screen faces up, thereby improving operability.

In each of the embodiments shown in FIGS. **7**A and **10**A, the keyboard **27** is used as the input means. However, the integrated display/input device may be used together.

As a display means, flat panel displays such as a plasma display, an EL display, and the like may be used in addition to the LCD. In the above embodiment, the transparent tablet **21** is used. As a tablet, a tablet of an electrical resistance system, an electrostatic capacitance system, an electromagnetic induction system, an acoustic system, an ultrasonic system, an optical system, a pressure-sensitive system, or the like may be placed below the display unit **19** in use.

In some of the above system, the input pen used for tablet entry is connected to the tablet main body but in the remaining system, the pen is not connected to the main body.

When characters are input, a plurality of icons (soft keys) representing character keys may be displayed on the display unit **19** of the integrated display/input device **23**, and may be pointed to input characters, in place of an input operation from the keyboard **27**.

In the above description, the rotational range of the hinge units **31**, **33**, **35**, and **38** used in the above embodiment is set to be 180°. However, the rotational range may be arbitrarily determined as long as an angle capable of pivoting the upper cover **25** and the main body case **29** to states shown in FIGS. **7**A through **7**D or FIGS. **10**A through **10**C can be set.

In the third embodiment, the display/input unit **51** can be pivoted through 180° by the second hinge mechanism **53**. However, the rotational range and direction are not limited to those in the third embodiment as long as electrical connections between the support unit **47** and the display/input unit **51** via the second hinge mechanism **53** will not be twisted upon rotation of the display/input unit **51**.

In the third embodiment, the direction of the rotational shaft of the first hinge mechanism **49** is parallel to that of the second hinge mechanism **53**. However, the rotational shaft of the second hinge mechanism **53** may be set to be perpendicular to that of the first hinge mechanism **49** (the support unit **47** is rotated in a lateral direction when it is lifted up).

The rotation lock mechanism is arranged in the display/input unit **51** and the support unit **47** located at positions perpendicular to the rotational shaft of the second hinge mechanism **53**, but may be arranged in the display/input unit **51** and the support unit **47** located at positions parallel to the rotational shaft of the second hinge mechanism **53**. The lock pins **57** and the lock release buttons **61** are arranged on the support unit **47**, and the holes **59** are formed in the display/input unit **51**. However, the lock pins **57** and the lock release buttons **61** may be arranged on the display/input unit **51**, and the holes **59** may be formed in the support unit **47**.

In the fourth embodiment, the numbers of input/display unit fixing rods **83** and the input/display unit fixing rails **85** for regulating the rotational range of the input/display unit **69** are not limited to those in the above embodiment.

The rotational shaft B of the second hinge mechanism **71** is set to be parallel to the rotational shaft A of the first hinge mechanism but may be perpendicular to each other.

In each of the fifth and sixth embodiments, the rotation brake mechanism is not limited to that in the above embodiment. For example, a latch mechanism may be arranged between the Junction upper cover **97** and the upper cover **95** to hold a rotational position.

When the coordinate conversion circuit inverts the origin position and scanning direction of the display **101**, it may correct the end address (by subtracting an inverted value of the end address) after the display address output from the LCD controller **139** is inverted (by converting "0000" to "ffff").

In the above embodiments, signal lines extend through the cavity in the hinge unit to connect the main body and the display unit. However, for example, signal lines may extend from a portion of the main body case, may be covered with a protection member, and, then, may be connected to the display unit.

In the above embodiments, the embodiment wherein the hinge mechanism is arranged at the rear end portion of the main body case, and the embodiment wherein the hinge mechanism is arranged at the central portion of the main body case have been exemplified. However, in each of the embodiments, the hinge mechanism may be arranged at the rear end portion of the main body case or an arbitrary position offset from the rear end portion toward the central portion.

Additional advantages and modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, the invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific details, and representative devices, shown and described herein. Accordingly, various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the general inventive concept as defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A portable computer comprising:

a keyboard for inputting data;

a main body case encasing said keyboard;

an integrated display/input device, said integrated display/input device having a display device for displaying data and a tablet for inputting coordinate data with said tablet overlaying a display surface of said display device;

a cover encasing said integrated display/input device;

a hinge for pivotally coupling said main body case and said cover from a state wherein said main body case and said cover overlap each other so that said keyboard and said integrated display/input device face each other to a state wherein said main body case and said cover overlap each other so that back surfaces thereof face each other; and

a hinge groove arranged along an outer periphery of said main body case, whereby said hinge moves in position while being guided by said hinge groove.

2. A computer according to claim **1**, wherein said hinge further comprises means for fixedly setting said cover at an arbitrary angle to said main body case.

3. A computer according to claim **1**, wherein said hinge groove is arranged at a rear end portion of said main body case.

4. A computer according to claim **1**, wherein said hinge groove is arranged at a position offset from a rear end portion of said main body case toward a central portion of said main body case.

5. A portable computer comprising:

a keyboard for inputting data;

a main body case encasing said keyboard;

an integrated display/input device having a display device for displaying data and a tablet overlaying a display surface of said display device for inputting coordinate data;

a cover encasing said integrated display/input device;

a hinge for pivotally coupling said main body case and said cover from a state where said main body case and said cover overlap each other so that said keyboard and said integrated display/input device face each other to a state wherein said main body case and said cover